

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System held Friday, August 23, 2019 at the hour of 8:30 A.M., at 1950 W. Polk Street, in Conference Room 5301, Chicago, Illinois.

I. Attendance/Call to Order

Chair Reiter called the meeting to order.

Present: Chair Robert G. Reiter, Jr. and Directors David Ernesto Munar and Mary B. Richardson-Lowry (3)

Board Chair M. Hill Hammock (ex-officio) and Directors Mary Driscoll, RN, MPH; Ada Mary Gugenheim; and Mike Koetting

Present

Telephonically: Steven Scheer (Non-Director Member)

Absent: Director Hon. Dennis Deer, LCPC, CCFC (1)

Additional attendees and/or presenters were:

Ekerete Akpan – Chief Financial Officer
Charles Jones – Chief Procurement Officer
Jeff McCutchan –General Counsel

Deborah Santana – Secretary to the Board
John Jay Shannon, MD – Chief Executive Officer

II. Public Speakers

Chair Reiter asked the Secretary to call upon the registered public speakers.

The Secretary responded that there were none present.

III. Action Items

A. Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting, July 19, 2019

Director Richardson-Lowry, seconded by Director Munar, moved to accept the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of July 19, 2019. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Contracts and Procurement Items (Attachment #1)

Charles Jones, Chief Procurement Officer, provided an overview of the contractual requests presented for the Committee's consideration. The Committee reviewed and discussed the requests.

Director Richardson-Lowry inquired whether more detailed information can be provided on the minority and women-owned business enterprise (M/WBE) participation for the contracts presented for consideration. Mr. Jones responded affirmatively. Chair Reiter noted that the Committee now receives monthly reports on M/WBE participation, although there is a two (2) month lag in the information.

Director Richardson-Lowry, seconded by Director Munar, moved the approval of request numbers 1 through 21, subject to completion of review by Contract Compliance, where appropriate. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Action Items (continued)

C. Proposed Transfers of Funds (Attachment #2)

Ekerete Akpan, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the proposed Transfers of Funds. The Committee reviewed and discussed the item.

Director Munar, seconded by Director Richardson-Lowry, moved the approval of the proposed Transfers of Funds. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Any items listed under Section III and VI

IV. Report from Chief Procurement Officer

- A. Report on Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Participation (Attachment #3)**
- B. Report of emergency purchases (Attachment #4)**

Mr. Jones provided an overview of the two (2) reports presented for the Committee's information. The Committee reviewed and discussed the information.

V. Report from the Chief Financial Officer (Attachment #5)

- **Metrics**
- **Financials: June 2019**

Mr. Akpan provided an overview of the metrics and Financials through June 2019. The Committee reviewed and discussed the information.

The Committee held an extensive discussion on the growing uncompensated and charity care being provided by Cook County Health (CCH). Chair Reiter commented that, although CCH has become a declining expense on the County's overall budget and CCH continues to work to become more self-sufficient, that is becoming an unsustainable position to hold as uncompensated and charity care expense continues to increase. Director Driscoll stated that there needs to be a push with the State or County lawmakers to figure out how more people can become insured, and how other caregivers can kick in their fair share in dollars or care to take care of the uninsured.

Dr. John Jay Shannon, Chief Executive Officer, stated that an analysis was done a few years ago that looked at the local tax allocation being directed towards the public safety net; when indexed against the proportion of people living in poverty in that area, it showed that we're lagging, compared to some of the other major urban healthcare centers. He indicated that a new analysis should be done to reflect current conditions. Board Chair Hammock recommended that the administration look at other areas to see what they are doing in response, as they must have the same problems with uncompensated and charity care.

V. Report from the Chief Financial Officer (continued)

Director Munar stated that, if trying to engage County Commissioners to help find a solution for this, to the extent that the administration can map the utilization of uncompensated and charity care geographically into the separate County Board districts, that would be helpful. Seeing the total amount of uncompensated and charity care is one thing, but seeing it mapped by each Commissioner's district would be very enlightening. The data would reflect where the rate of increase is coming from and what the contribution of this is by each of their districts. It would then lead into the conversation on possible consequences if charity care is capped at a certain level – what percentage of their constituents would not have access to care if that happens? He inquired whether the administration has the capacity to generate a report with geographic distribution of the uncompensated and charity care that CCH provides, and what that trend would look like. Mr. Akpan responded affirmatively; he said that this information can be provided at a detailed level.

Dr. Shannon noted that, every year, the administration shares three (3) data points with the Commissioners; this data point being discussed might be a good fourth one. The three (3) currently provided to each Commissioner by district are: number of registrants receiving care within CCH; number of constituents enrolled in CountyCare; and number of CCH employees who live in their district. Director Richardson-Lowry recommended that the information be presented to Commissioners every year during budget season. Additionally, she recommended that there be a third (3rd) party review of uncompensated care to validate what is being prognosticated here.

Board Chair Hammock stated that he would like to see another data point relating to area hospitals that close or merge; that happens frequently and is expected to continue, and when that happens, where do those patients go? He suspects that this adds to the uncompensated and charity care provided by CCH.

VI. Recommendations, Discussion/Information Items

A. Cook County Health's Proposed FY2020 Preliminary Budget and Three (3) Year Financial Forecast: FY2020-2022 for Cook County Health's Impact 2023 Strategic Plan

Chair Reiter stated that, while the agenda indicates that the preliminary budget was going to be introduced today, the goal is to introduce it at next week's full Board Meeting, when more Directors are in attendance. Staff have been instructed to reschedule the public hearings on the subject, as well.

VII. Adjourn

As the agenda was exhausted, Chair Reiter declared the meeting ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted,
Finance Committee of the
Board of Directors of the
Cook County Health and Hospitals System

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Robert G. Reiter, Jr., Chair

Attest:

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Deborah Santana, Secretary

Follow-up / Requests:

- Request: Request made for more detailed information to be provided on the minority and women-owned business enterprise (M/WBE) participation for the contracts presented for consideration. Page 1
- Request: Request made for a report with geographic distribution, based on County Board districts, of the uncompensated and charity care that CCH provides, and what that trend would look like. Page 3
- Follow-up: Recommendation made that there be a third (3rd) party review of uncompensated and charity care to validate what is being prognosticated by the administration. Page 3
- Request: Request made for a data point relating to area hospitals that close or merge, to address whether this impacts CCH's uncompensated and charity care. Page 3